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PRICE TWOPENCE.

HORSE TRAINING IN THE OLDEN TIME.

The following article is extracted from Lord William Lennox's "Here's Sport indeed," in the current number of the *Sporting Magazine*—

"As the racing season is about to commence, and the nominations for the year 1866 are considerably greater than those of any former year, we consider that we cannot do better than offer a few remarks upon a most important subject—that of training the racehorse.

"Many noblemen and gentlemen train in their own parks; and often the stud-groom undertakes the office of getting the horses into condition for running. The above system, which we think is an excellent one for those about to be engaged in hunters' stakes, hurdle or steeplechases, is not generally approved of. Still we think it has one advantage, and that is that the horses are always well fed, which in some few stables, when done by contract, at so many guineas a week, is not (qually attended to. Wild Dayrell, the sire of so many valuable race-horses, is a proof of what may be done by private training. Although trainers (like doctors with bled patients), disagree in their mode of preparing horses, we think the following system, founded upon reason and experience, will prove to be the best:

"As a month is the least time that can be allowed to draw the animal's body clear, and to refine his wind to that state of perfection which is attainable by art, it is at first necessary to take an exact view of the state of his body, whether he be high or low in flesh; and it is also necessary to consider whether he be dull and heavy or brisk and lively when shod. If he appear dull and heavy, and there is reason to suppose it is owing to too hard riding, or, as the jockeys express it, to some grease that has been dissolved in exercise, and has not been removed, then the proper remedy is half-an-ounce of dispenle, given in a pint of good sack, which will at once remove the cause, and revive the creature's spirits. We fear the worthy knight, Sir John Falstaff, omitted the nauseous drug, and stuck to the vinous preparation, or he possibly might have become less heavy, less Benignish, than he was. After this, for the first week of the month, the horse—not Prince Hal's fat boon companion—should be fed with oats, bread, and spilt beans, sometimes the one, sometimes the other, as he likes best, always leaving a portion in the manger, that he may feed at leisure when alone. At feeding-time, whatever is left of this must be removed, and fresh given. By these means the animal will soon become high-spirited and full of play. Every day he must be ridden out, and every other day it will be proper to increase his exercise, but not so as to make him perspire too much. The beans and oats should be put into a bag, and beaten until the hulls are all off, and then winnowed clean; and the bread, instead of being chipped in the common way, should have the crust cut off. If the horse be in good health and spirits when taken up for the month's preparation, the chief business will be to give him good food, and as much exercise as will keep him in wind without over-driving him. When he takes more severe exercise afterwards, towards the end of the month, it will be advisable to have some horses to gallop with him. This will put him on his mettle, and the beating them will give him spirits. It is, however, to be cautiously observed that he is not to be pressed to full speed for ten days or a fortnight before the race, and that the last gallop must be in his clothes. This will make him run with much more vigour when stripped for the race. In the second week the horse should have the same food, and dried oats that have been hulled by beating. After this they are to be wetted in a quantity of white of egg beaten up, and then laid out in the sun to dry; and when perfectly free from moisture the horse is to have them. This food is very light of digestion, and excellent for the

animal's wind. The beans at this time should be given more sparingly, and the bread should be made of three parts wheat and one part beans. If his system should cease to be cool, he must then have some ale and white of eggs beaten together. In the last week the mash is to be omitted, and barley water given in its place every day until the morning before the race. He should have his fill of hay at first, and then it ought to be given more sparingly, that he may have time to digest it; and on the day when the "high-mettled racer" is to appear on the course, he must have a toast or two of white bread, soaked in sack, and the same just before he is led out to the field. By this means the two extremes of fulness and fasting are equally avoided, the one damaging his wind, and the other occasioning faintness that may make him lose his race. After he has had his food, the litter should be shaken up, and the stable kept quiet, that he may not be disturbed until he is taken out to run. The above was the old-fashioned manner of training, in days when bottom as well as speed was required; and we have given it in the hopes that officers and sportsmen who occasionally wish to get their horses into condition to run for a military or hunting sweepstakes may profit by our advice, without going to the expense of a trainer, who swallows up almost all the winnings, and, in the event of losing, mulcts the owner of many days' pay.

TURF SCANDALS.

The importance of the recent trial between the proprietor of *Tattersall's Tissue* and the *Sporting Life*, must be our apology for giving the decision of the Lord Chief Justice in extenso.

"This case affords an illustration of some of the mischievous effects of betting through the medium of commission agents, because we have here a man in a respectable employment in business, not only risking the money which he has probably saved out of hard earned wages, but, under false pretences, borrowing £250 from a friend for the purpose of speculating with it upon the most uncertain and unsatisfactory of all results—that is, the result of betting on horse racing; and what makes it more remarkable in this instance is, that we find he entrusts his chance of success to a man of whom, I think, we may very safely say that he was utterly incompetent to discharge the duty of commission agent. He is a man who has been all his life brought up to the printing business, carrying on business as a printer in Fetter-lane; he becomes the printer of this newly established and newly started sporting journal, which takes the title of *Tattersall's Tissue*. The principal for whom he employed falls short of the necessary funds to pay the expenditure of the paper, and so Mr. M'Callum, in respect of a debt which the proprietor of the paper has incurred to him, takes the paper in payment, and becomes the proprietor of it. He, up to that time (in the spring of 1865) having had nothing on earth to do with horse-racing, except that, possibly, like every other Londoner, he may perchance have gone down to see the Derby—starts as a commission agent, to bet for other people on horse-racing. Having probably never seen a race horse in his life, except on solitary occasions, you find him carrying on a sporting paper, and, as a person supposed to know all about sporting transactions, starting boldly as a commission agent, to bet for other people on horse-racing. I hope that individuals who may be foolish enough, knowing nothing about horse-racing themselves, instead of seeking to earn honestly the means of subsistence, for themselves and their families, and to acquire fortunes or secure independence for old age, are nevertheless weak, foolish, and infatuated enough to entrust their money to other people to lay out on horse-racing, will at least take care to employ agents who know something about the matter with which they put themselves to deal. However, it is not on that account that this plaintiff, however rash he may have been in undertaking the business of a commission agent, and in dealing with the money of old people, is to be stigmatised as an impostor and a scoundrel, unless there be some ground upon which such charges as those can be rested, or unless there be conduct to which such opprobrious epithets as those can properly be applied.

"Gentlemen, you must judge for yourselves upon this conflict of evidence. If you believe, as is suggested, that Mr. M'Callum took advantage of Mr. Thompson, and that, being authorised to lay out on his behalf these two sums of £50 each on two specified particular horses did not bet with anybody at all, but fraudulently represented to Thompson that he had taken these bets, when in reality the money was in his own pocket, and it was he who was betting with Thompson, and he, from the knowledge he had, being on the spot, would know pretty well whether the horses were likely to win or not—if you think that was all fraud, it is impossible to say (I do not like to use the word "swindler," because it is an opprobrious word) that it would not be a most disgraceful transaction on the part of a commission agent—that is, if the assertion that is here made is believed by you to be true. It is not because he may have rashly undertaken this business, but one ought without sufficient grounds, to rush at once to the conclusion that he has been guilty



CHARLES DIBDIN PITT,
The Celebrated Actor.

ton, 8st 5lb	Morris	1
Mr. Gordon's Bracken, 8st 10lb	Challoner	2
Mr. Lunel's Thistle, 8st 5lb	A. Edwards	3
Mr. Saxon's Peggy, 8st 5lb	Clement	0
Captain Williams's Knightsbridge, 8st 10lb	Wyne	0

Setting: 9 to 4 agst Sycee, 5 to 1 agst Thistle, 7 to 2 agst Bracken, and 5 to 1 agst Peggy. Time of day, 6.15, set occurred by consent of the Knightsbridge

MR. PAUL BEDFORD,
The Eminent and Popular Comedian of the Theatre Royal Adelphi.

DRURY LANE

THEATRE ROYAL.—(Manager, Mr. G. B. Ellis.)—As we anticipated, Mr. G. B. Ellis had a "bumper" on Wednesday for his benefit. The great attraction was new play by Mr. Ellis, entitled "Blanche La Basse," with the following excellent cast:—(Philippe l'ital, Mr. G. B. Ellis; Claude, Mr. Fletcher; Pierre, Mr. J. J. F. Fuler; Count Henri, Mr. A. A. Creamer; Blanche, Miss E. Branton; Etienne, Mr. Williams; and Miss Emily Scott, who met with an enthusiastic reception as Jeanette Narcot. The applause bestowed on this drama was well deserved, as the play was full of the most stirring and engaging situations. Mr. Williams appeared to her friends on Friday night, and produced the Merry Wives of Windsor, and "Woodcock's little game." The only part

ANGLING.

Secretaries of societies and fishermen of whatever taste or peculiarity, are respectfully requested to forward contributions concerning the progress of their localities, and any interesting information relative to this delightful branch of sport, the season for which will soon be at its zenith. Contributions on Rowing and Swimming receive every attention at our hands.

JACK FISHING.

On Tuesday, February 20th, Mr. Storr, secretary to the True Waltonian Society, and a friend, Mr. Butler, two well-known anglers, had a fair day's sport in the river at Brockley (Lady Palmerston's). The day was warm, and not unfavourable for jack fishing. The water was in good condition, but, perhaps a little too fine. With a ripple, doubtless, much more might have been done. With the two rods the anglers took twelve jack, weighing in the aggregate forty-four pounds. The two largest weighed eight pounds each. Some of those taken would have been cast in again, but Messrs. Storr and Butler were live-baiting.

RIVER SUIR, IRELAND.

During the very few days that the water was in fishing order in February, there were forty-six new fish taken by rods between Newcastle and Golden, amongst these were one 25lbs, two of 18lbs each, and three of 16lbs each.

RIVER USK, BRECON DISTRICT.

Several good baskets of trout have been taken in this river, in excellent condition, being both pink and curly; one gentleman, near Crickhowell, took eight fish on the 17th ult; weight, 5½lb. The trout rise freely in the middle of the day, after the frost of the night begins to disappear. There are a good many salmon on the spawning beds still, and the large ponds are full of kelts.

The river still continues much flooded, and the weather cold and wet; to-day there has been a slight fall of snow, and the mountains and some parts of the low ground are quite covered. At the Defymouth Sessions on the 22nd instant, Evan Edwards and David Jenkins, railway navvies, were fined £1 each, and costs, for using a gaff in the Clifton brook; and Thomas Price for a similar offence, was fined £2 4s., including costs.

At the Shirehall, Brecon, on Saturday, an old offender, John Williams, was summoned on a charge of using a gaff in the Ysick brook—defendant did not appear, and the case was adjourned.

At Crickhowell Petty Sessions on the 18th instant, John Lewis was fined £2 and costs for using a gaff to kill salmon in the Groviny brook.

There are a good many old fish now in the pools; there are but few salmon unspawned, and on the 3rd instant, in a walk of more than a mile along the river, we noticed only one pair of fish on the beds. Trout fishing is now becoming good, and the fish rise freely in the middle of the day.

Net fishing for salmon in the estuary of this river commenced on Thursday, the 1st of March; the special commissioners appointed to inquire into the titles of fisheries, are meditating a visit to the Usk, and have already applied for some preliminary information.—JOHN LLOYD.

It is proposed to establish a fish breeding pond on the Usk at Brecon. The *Hereford Times*, in writing of it, says:—"We are disposed to think that the scheme, if well carried out, will be of great benefit to the fishery of all rivers in the kingdom, as by a careful study and practice of the science of fish culture on an extensive scale great improvement may be made in the management of our rivers, and a consequent large increase in their produce. As far as the Usk is concerned, it will be of the greatest advantage to that river; and to the town of Brecon it is a scheme of great importance, and will probably cause very many persons to come there to inspect the establishment of fish culture. We hope to hear of Mr. Lloyd's plan being successfully carried out."

"THE RIVER WINDRUSH."

One of the correspondents of your paper starts the question whether the salmon requires food during the spawning season. I know nothing of the habits of salmon during that interesting period, but, as far as trout are concerned, can say, without hesitation, that they feed when put into breeding boxes ready for the extraction of spawn. "Wentall" is right in saying the different times of spawning in the Thames are different in kind. The trout in the river Windrush, which is one of the feeders (and so far as trout are concerned, a very important feeder) of the Thames, have not yet finished spawning. The first egg we obtained this season was on the 6th of January, and last season the first lot of eggs was obtained on the 18th of January, and the last on the 3rd of March, and it is fair to suppose that the fish supplied to the Thames by our stream would be later in their season than the produce of those which commence operations in November and finish in January. Even in our little stream, the fish, nearer its source in the Cotswold Hills, at Taynton, are much later in spawning than those nearer its junction at Newbridge; for the first lot of eggs that we could get at Taynton last season was (and that from a fish not quite ripe) on the 12th February. Mr. Buckland asks for information as to the various sizes of fish from the same hatchling of the Thames. Some of our trout at four months old were one inch, some two inches, some three inches; and one big fellow, from the same lot, was four inches long, and they had all been kept in the same box. I am pleased to see him protesting against the wholesale destruction of lobsters. We have tried to persuade people on the Windrush to leave alone the hen crayfish when in spawning, but with little success at present; should be glad to hear how the hen fish are doing at South Kensington Gardens. In answer to "Cock Salmon," as far as trout goes, we catch many more milkers than spawners; and want them, for we have often to try half a dozen, when a spawner is fit, before we can get a ripe fish. We have a lady now of a very curious character; instead of giving us all her eggs at once or twice, we have already had four lots from her about every three or four days. We got fifty to sixty eggs, and she has a lot left yet; have any of your readers met with a similar case? I am sorry to occupy so much space, but great interest in the subject must be my apology.—WINDRUSH.—Land and Water.

RIVER WYE, HEREFORDSHIRE.

George Edwards was brought before the borough Magistrates at Hereford, a few days ago, charged with having an unseasonable salmon in his possession. Police-constable 22 suspected the prisoner, and on searching him found the salmon under his coat, the head being down, and the tail part slung over his shoulder with a piece of string; the fish bore two marks of gaff-hooks; there were three other men with the prisoner who ran away. The magistrates, J. Jay, and J. H. Griffiths, Esqs., fined the prisoner £2.

THE THAMES.

The water continues very thick and high, and the season is now closed, March, April, and May being the fence months according to the rules and regulations of the Fishery of the Thames. The report which has been circulated that the Board of Thames Conservancy will not grant deputations to the present keepers employed by the Thames Angling Preservation Society is untrue; they have on the contrary resolved to give the men these warrants who, acting together with an increased staff appointed by the conservators, will protect the river most efficiently. The men now appointed being wholly paid, their services are especially directed to night-watching.

THE SHANNON, &c.

A few good fish have fallen to the rod during the past week. On Monday Captain Vansittart killed one of eighteen pounds on the Donnas Fishery. He was hooked on Coolteen, and fought very hard to go down the dancing hole. After the first race he did not get an inch of line. In the struggle the captain's foot slipped, and he was pulled down on the flat of his back with such force, that blood gushed from his nose, and continued to run all the time the battle lasted. He, however, held on to his fish, which eventually had to succumb to the Greenheart, after one of the severest bouts that has been witnessed at the Leap for several seasons. Later in the week a fish was killed at Erina, and another on Mr. Phelps's fishery. As the water is now coming to the proper level, and the season is getting on, fair sport may be expected at Castle Connell.

The few salmon which have been taken up to this time have been of more than an average weight. This was expected from the number of large-sized kelts which were seen returning to the sea last season, and should be strong inducements to the angler to protect these unclean fish.

On the Maigue, Mr. Browning killed two fish at Carrass, and Mr. Croker one above Croom. The angling does not commence in earnest on this river until about the second week in March.

There has been rather a warm controversy going on in the pages of a contemporary for the last few weeks about the merits of "Eyed Hooks." A Mr. Warner, from Redditch, claimed the honour of the invention, and in a letter of January 27th, in describing its great merits says: "For fly-dressing they are quite as useful as for bait-hooks, as the fly can be dressed with greater neatness and security than when tied with waxed silk." Mr. Hackett, of Cork, next appeared on the scene, and claimed the invention as his if there is any merit in it, and a correspondent writing under the name of "Wader," gave it as his opinion that there was no merit whatever, but quite the reverse in the "Eyed Hook." I am disposed to come to the same conclusion arrived at by "Wader." It is now some sixteen years since I purchased these "Eyed Hooks" from Hackett, of Cork, and I found the fly could not be dressed with anything like the same neatness as when tied in the ordinary manner with the gut lapped to the hook; after having lost several fish in consequence of the eye cutting the gut, I abandoned them. I have upon more than one occasion killed a salmon with the hook lapped in the or-

inary manner, broken in two places, but the lapping on of the gut held; for small flies, gut loops or eyes are not bad.—WILLIAM LYSAGHT (Limerick).

GROWTH OF YOUNG SALMON.

Having watched the Stormontfield experiment from the commencement, I can give "Angler" the information he asks for. The fry of the salmon at a year old vary greatly in size; you will have them from two to six inches in length, about one half of them will assume the smolt state and migrate towards the sea; this will happen with ova taken from the same fish.

It was suggested that probably it was the fry of the grilse only, which was retarded in its growth, but this was found not to be the case, for the same thing happens with both salmon and grilse ova, the small fish will remain another twelve months in the fresh water, and salmon, all of the same age, in the river at one and the same time. I have seen a salmon of sixteen pounds weight, and a parr of an ounce both of the same age, that is, three years. This disparity in their growth has not yet been accounted for, the fish were all in the same store pond, and, of course, under like conditions. We may see the wisdom of the law; thus, the present breeding season will give two years' supply of grilse, whereas, if they all arrived at maturity at the same time, one bad breeding season would cause a dearth of grilse, while under the present circumstances it is hardly noticed.—C. F. WALSH.

INNERLEITHEN.

The weather during the past week has again been unfavourable for angling—Monday was frosty, and on Tuesday a severe snow storm set in. Frost prevailed on Thursday and Friday, but on Saturday a good deal of the snow disappared under a moderate thaw. The water has been in fine order, and in spite of the cold a few anglers ventured out, but little sport was enjoyed. The whole of the fish captured in this neighbourhood during the week will not amount to a dozen. Mr. Smirritwaite, the Tweed Commissioners' Superintendent, passed through the district on Tuesday, and took the rods and baskets from three fishers in the neighbourhood of Peebles, on the ground that some fish which they had caught and not returned to the water were unclean.

KELSO.

During the past week, although the wintry nature of the weather has been very unfavourable for outdoor sports, several ardent sportsmen have been pursuing their favourite recreation with considerable success. The kelts, as usual in this season, have been very numerous, and although furnishing in some instances good sport by their vigorous runs, they have all been returned to the river. Mr. Tyler, of London, killed a clean trout on Thursday in the Sprouston Water. In the same water, and on the same day, Colonel Cathcart landed several fish, but to clean salmon, while Lord Douglas landed several unseasonable fish, and killed two clean salmon, weighing respectively 7lb and 9lb. Eleven clean salmon in all have now been taken on the Elsel Water. On Saturday, the Rev. Mr. Griffiths, Durham, killed a clean salmon 13lb in weight, and another weighing 20lb, which he returned to the river, and two kelts, which appeared to be respectively 17lb and 23lb in weight. In the Teviot, on the same day, men had fair sport in running kelts. Yesterday, though the frost continued very keen, the snow kept melting away under the rays of a brilliant sun, while the wind veering round to the south-west, and the falling of the barometer, indicate the approach of a welcome change.

SMALL FINES FOR POACHERS.

Occasionally I take a look at a very useful and widely-circulated journal, called the *Hereford Times*, and in my perusal of the aforesaid paper saw now and then (I may say frequently) started at the great judicial tales I see displayed by our borough magistracy. For instance, I see that not rarely some poor half-starved wretch is sent to gaol for two or three months, with hard labour, for daring to beg a loaf of bread, or a small copper, to save from utter starvation a wretched sickly family; and in the next case brought before these same mighty dignitaries of the law I observe a poacher who has been convicted some half-dozen times of taking unseasonable salmon, totally unfit for human food, intended for sale to the public, breaking the head of a keeper, who, in the execution of his duty, attempts to take him, fined a few shillings by way of example. As an illustration of the latter case, read the *Hereford Times* of the 3rd inst. Where the borough magistrates of Brecon:—

"SALMON POACHING AND ASSAULT."

Evan Williams, a notorious poacher, is accused of having unseasonable salmon in his possession; he is found guilty; several previous convictions for a similar offence are recorded against him; in fact he has but just returned from prison for committing the like offence.

What do our worthy J. P.'s do? Why, they inflict a penalty of forty shillings upon him (in violation, I presume, of the Salmon Fishery Act of 1859), and, by way of capping their judicial knowledge, and as a token of their approval of the conduct of the keeper, named Boswick, who with great pluck and considerable judgment, even at the risk of his life, has detected and secured the culprit, they award to a man named Gabriel, who assaults and half murders the aforesaid keeper in trying to rescue Williams and his foul salmon, a penalty of twenty shillings, including costs.—AN ANGLER ON THE USK.

PINK TROUT.

I see in your paper a letter from "Lincolnshire," asking for information on the best mode of supplying a stream with pink, instead of whitish-fleshed trout, and my experience induces me to recommend that he should, in the first instance, obtain from Hunington some spawn of the Lago Maggiore or Lago Comasco trout, which is a quick growing species—and the cross between his own and these lake fish will probably improve the breed; at the same time it must be borne in mind that the redness of flesh in trout is the result of food, and not of variety of breed; and he will find if he gets a red-fleshed trout from any of the lakes or rivers producing them, that in a short time the flesh of the fish will become white after being eight or ten months in his stream.—Land and Water.



THE LATE LORD CLIFDEN.



YOUNG BALDOCK,
Who defeated Jerry Regan on Tuesday last (See account in another page).

[illegible]

2-Neal and Weston-£10 a side, at 8st 10lb, London district.
3-Halley and Harley-£10 a side, at 8st, Birmingham.
3-Brookes and Gillam-£25 a side, London.
10-Young Bent and Young Collins-£25 a side, London.
17-Jem Dillon and Bob Travers-£100 a side, London.
94-Hackett and Hobbins-£25 a side, London.

Joe Goss is now staying at Liverpool, and will be glad to hear of, or see, his friends at Mr. Kolly's, the Raindeer. The excellent manner in which the late fights have been brought to an issue, and the good order and regularity displayed, have given another "shove up" to the supposed falling fortunes of the Ring. It wants a good champion fight to give the "institution" a real good turn sufficient for us to record even as they pass, and as far as practicable anticipate the future.

JOHN BALDOCK AND JEREMIAH BEGAN

The King was formed on a fine piece of turf, where many a previous encounter has been brought off. Fred Oliver appeared most opportunely, and Puggy White, as usual, came up by the "Vampire" trap, and sported a bundle of straw, "spick and span" new. How the aforesaid William White got the means to invest so much in a fibrous material we did not care to enquire, all we wish to say is that, as ever, he was attentive, and took most particular care that our "poor feet" were well cared for. The colours of the

Round 8.—The fine condition of the man would not allow of any perceptible marks of punishment being apparent, although it was patent, that thus early Jack Baldoek held the trumps card in his hands. Regan slipped on one knee only, and Baldoek was loudly cheered as he forbore to take advantage of the circumstance, which he could have done, but only put his hands down.

round 29—Regan was fought down, and repeated appeals from all sides for him to give in, was answered by himself in rushing forward for

round 30 and last—With his darkened vision, and nearly physical prostration, he tried hard to steady himself, but Baldoek went to him, and with a blow as

REMARKS.

From the foregoing the nature of the contest may be readily imagined; our American friend, Mr. Hall, of Pittsburgh, St. Louis, and one of the most scientific delineators ever witnessed, gave it as his opinion that it was the gamest

DOOLEY AND MURPHY

where,

They weighed on the eve of the battle, and were both found within the required weight. The office had been given to meet at the Plough, at Minworth, and there at an early hour the combatants with their backers and friends repaired. The arrangements were speedily made, and at 7.30 M'Cabe threw his cap in the ring, and was immediately followed by Blowey, and the contest began.

st. sin., and weighed on the present occasion about 8st. 2lb. He has been the hero of several rough turns up, in which he has figured to advantage, his best performance in the orthodox 24 feet being with Bill Jordan, in March, 1864, at Agecroft, when Conboy was declared the winner, after contesting five rounds, and coming out victorious.

Mr. Dermott hailed from Mr. Medcalf's, Steamback Tavern, Great Ancoats street, Manchester; stands 5ft 5in high, has seen 22 summers, and scaled about 2lb. He fought a draw with Jack Cunningham for a small stake last New Year's day, 95 rounds, 1 hour and 3, Openshaw. Agnew's was the chosen spot for the settlement of the grudge, but no exciting threats at a distance.

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terminated at 6 to 4 on Meek. Mr. T. Edge, of the Hope and Anchor, Plack, officiated as referee. The start was very level, but Poxton had the advantage by a shade at half distance, and, after a most excellent race, came in winner by a foot only.

J. Wilcox, of Hill Top, and J. Dudley, of Wednesbury, next appeared to compete for £15 a side, in a six score yards spin. The men, who had evidently been carefully trained, were attended by Greig, of Sheffield, and Tom Brown, of Birmingham, on the part of Wilcox, and Shotton, of Stafford, and a friend on Dudley; whilst Mr. Hawkins, of the Crown and Cushion, Wednesbury, the final stakeholder, was appointed referee. This was the second match of these parties, Dudley having been previously the winner. A good sum was invested at 6 to 4 on Wilcox. An even start was effected, but Wilcox soon appeared leading, and pursuing his advantage ran in winner by two yards.

G. Lester, of Birmingham, and O. Topley, of London, next came forward to walk seven miles, for £25 a side. Lester is a young man who has achieved a considerable provincial reputation, and Topley has attained the reputation of ranking with the first pods of the day. They were both in splendid condition. Topley was attended by his trainer, Birmingham. By the articles Lester was allowed a minute start, in which he managed to gain a lead of 220 yards over his adversary; to complete the distance they had to make the circuit of the grounds (282

sand visitors. The card embraced the large number of five biped and one canine contest, the whole of which being of considerable interest. On the grounds we noticed Mr. W. Muras, auctioneer, Mr. Henry Wardle, Rose Inn, Pudding Chase, Mr. R. Rogers, Mr. John Adams, Mr. James Percy, Mr. Forster, Mr. Temple, and a strong company of gentlemen from Blyth and other places.

The first match brought out J. Young, of Washington, and J. Harrison, of Biddick, who had agreed to run 100 yards for £10 a side. The race was settled a little after midday, the attendance only of course being small. Harrison was favourite at 6 to 4, various small sums at that quotation being risked by the opposing party, who, as the sequel showed, stood vainly for victory. The conventional business having been got successfully through, the start, after a series of false attempts, was tolerably well effected; the race, however, was far from a close one. Harrison should say almost at once afterwards took the lead, and outpaced Young rapidly and with sure effect, from half a dozen inches the gap quickly increased into as many feet. Harrison then seeing his chance in the ascendant, did not overtest himself, but still continuing to improve his position, he ultimately landed with 2½ yards to spare. A gentleman whose name we could not ascertain, stood as judge.

J. Wailes and W. Felton, of Usworth, 70 yards, for £10 a side. The mustor at this race showed an improvement on the foregoing.

he has come off with victory. He is a well formed, thick built man of upwards of thirty summers. Some two seasons or so back he used to figure frequently in 100 and 200 yds matches against the second best Northern runners; latterly, however, he has taken a curious fancy to shorter spins, such as for instance, 50, 70, and 80 yds, and always with singular success. Todd is considerably Stewart's junior; he has performed little in the arena as yet, but there is no mistaking that he is a pretty and effective pod; he, however, mistook his distance much in the present case, and suffered defeat thereby. Fifty yds can scarcely be called a race, as it mainly depends on the start, whoever in fact is fortunate enough to get the break is almost as sure to get the award; there is no test in such miserably short races; they are all well enough in one sense, but the principle is bad. Todd was supported at 5 to 4, but on the mark Stewart was freely backed at evens, the betting being carried on briskly in all parts of the ground. Stewart had the high side. Mr. William Oldham was selected as referee. Two umpires were also at the winning end. It was not to be expected that the start would be effected at once, as in short races the principals are never in a very anxious mood to bolt at once. Todd made a couple of breaks, followed by one by J. Stewart; they then divested themselves of their body shirt, and after a sound rubbing—for assuredly it was intensely cold—they had another try, unsuccessful though it was. Almost imme-



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yards and 124 yards distance), 43 times; they completed half the distance in 26 minutes, at which time Topley was rapidly gaining ground, and in the 26th circuit had caught and passed Lester, who, in this following round was 40 yards behind, and at its termination gave in, having walked 41 miles in 38 minutes 32 seconds. Betting commenced at even and concluded at 4 to 1 on Topley. M. A. B. Robert referee.

R. Smith and J. White, both of Smethwick, then took the scratch for the concluding match of 120 yards, for £5 a side. Mr. Bolton was appointed referee, and betting ruled at 6 to 4 on White, who was waited on by Hadley and Clarke, whilst Smith was attended by Davis and another. The start was perfectly level, and a close well-contested race followed, which was won by White by a foot.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE

FENHAM PARK RUNNING GROUNDS.—The general appearance of the surrounding country to-day (Saturday, March 3) was especially wintry; the adjacent fields and distant hills being thickly garbed in half-melting snow, which, although dismal-looking to the eye, was not wholly without a sort of semi-grandeur. Fenham is loftily situated, and the smoky atmosphere of the canny Tyne side town was not by any means calculated to impress us with the conviction that the mortality of the inhabitants would in consequence be benefited. Towards three o'clock a miserable drizzling rain commenced to descend, and which certainly did not add to the comfort of the thou-

Felton had the call in the market at 6 to 4; in some instances, however, considerably larger odds were forthcoming. Mr. Wm. Oldham acted as referee. The opponents "kidded" each other with the accustomed pith, until they finally made up their minds to bolt, and off they went, Felton with a good three feet the best of the start. Now, by it understood, that this contempt did not in the slightest degree coincide with the intentions of Wailes, who had reluctantly to officiate as whipper-in the rest of the journey. To make a long story short, Felton was much the better pod of the brace, as he not only soon placed two yards between them, but making the finish as comfortable as possible, broke the tape something like seven feet in advance of Wailes, who, to say the least of it, was beaten easily.

JAMES STEWART, of Usworth, and E. Todd, of Anfield, 50 yards, for £10. This being the principal item of the day, the attendance numbered about 561 persons. It will be admitted that the fact of the race being only half a century in extent, detracted considerably from the interest that would otherwise assuredly have been observed; as it was, however, excitement ran unusually high, and popular opinion on the rivals' merits predominated over the customary "tall talk" of the knowing ones. We have so many times commented on the successful career of Stewart, that in this instance it is unnecessary to enter again fully into the subject, beyond chronicling that he has been several years before the pedestrian world, and in almost every case

diately afterwards the gate money was staked, and after cutting to waste twenty minutes more, Stewart, as active as a kitten, made a splendid dart off; Todd followed at once, but with bad judgment, as he very clearly lost not less than four feet, so of course the start of the race held up at once the shadow of the finish. The 50 yds occupied 51 sec. in covering; during that brief space Todd did his best to make the best of a bad job, but without an iota of a chance; he never once approached Stewart, who kept the lead splendidly, and won by one yard and a half. The winner was in high glee at his success, he capered and frolicked with palpable delight. Various pigeons were at once despatched to convey the victory to the expectants at Usworth.

E. BRANNAN, of Blyth, and A. Stewart, of Hylton, 100 yards, for £20, Stewart having 3 yards start allowed. These men are no odd clippers, and very much interest was displayed in the contest by a large assembly. Brannan has not been long before the public, he has done good work in a little space of time, however. He first ran at these grounds during last season, and afterwards with so much success as to stamp him one of the best in the district. Stewart enjoys a good name and deservedly so, as he is by all means a really excellent foot-racer. In the betting Stewart was supported freely at evens, 5, 6, and even 7 to 4; after a few false starts had been made, it got round that all was not exactly square, therefore a solitary individual very quickly

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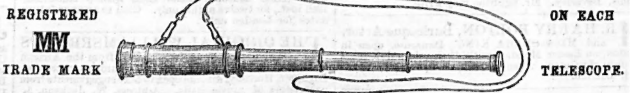
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